

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A map image display device comprising:
an input unit configured to input user commands;
a display unit configured to display map images; and
5 a control unit operatively coupled to the display unit to display on the display unit
a current displayed map image with at least one user selectable distant map name
corresponding to a distant location that is not located in the current displayed map image,
said control unit being configured to switch from the current displayed map image
to a new displayed map image in response to a user input command such that the new
10 displayed map image represents an area including the distant location corresponding to the
distant map name selected by the user input command.
2. The map image display device as recited in claim 1, wherein
the control unit is further configured to display the distant map name on the display
15 unit in a peripheral part of the display unit from a center point of the current displayed
map image that corresponds to a relative direction of the distant location relative to the
center point of the current displayed map image.
3. The map image display device as recited in claim 1, wherein
20 the control unit is further configured to display on the display unit at least one
intra-map name corresponding to a displayed location that is located in the current
displayed map image.
4. The map image display device as recited in claim 1, wherein
25 the control unit is further configured to include
a map image setting section configured to determine the current displayed map
image to be displayed;
a telephoto distance setting section configured to set a telephoto distance to a
prescribed distance that extends from a center point of the current displayed
30 map image determined to be displayed by the map image setting section to
a position not included in the current displayed map image to be displayed;

a display name selecting section configured to select at least one intra-map name to be displayed corresponding to a location that is located in the current displayed map image, and to select the distant map name as a telephoto name to be displayed and that is included in a telephoto region that is not included in the current displayed map image, the telephoto region being based on a position distant from the center of the current displayed map image to be displayed by at least the telephoto distance that is set by the telephoto distance setting section; and

a display image creating section configured to create a display image including the current displayed map image with the intra-map name and the distant map name that were selected by the display name selecting section such that the intra-map name is to be displayed at a location superimposed on the current displayed map image that corresponds to the intra-map name and the distant map name is to be superimposed at a position on the current displayed map image that corresponds to a relative direction of the distant location relative to the center point of the current displayed map image.

5. The map image display device as recited in claim 4, wherein the control unit is further configured to display the distant map name on the display unit in a peripheral part of the display unit.

6. The map image display device as recited in claim 4, wherein said telephoto distance setting section is further configured to set the telephoto distance in accordance with a scale of the current displayed map image to be displayed determined by the map image setting section.

7. The map image display device as recited in claim 4, wherein the map image display device is configured to be installed in a mobile body; and the telephoto distance setting section is further configured to vary the telephoto distance according to a moving speed of the mobile body.

8. The map image display device as recited in claim 4, wherein the map image display device is configured to be installed in a mobile body and further comprises

5 a history information storing section configured to store a movement history of the mobile body; and
said telephoto distance setting being further configured to calculate a telephoto distance setting value based on the movement history stored in the history information storing section, and to set the telephoto distance in accordance with the telephoto distance setting value calculated.

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9. The map image display device as recited in claim 8, wherein
said telephoto distance setting is further configured to calculate the telephoto distance setting value based on at least one of an average movement distance of the mobile body per day and an average maximum movement range of the mobile body stored in the history information storing section as the movement history, and to set the telephoto distance in accordance with the telephoto distance setting value calculated.

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10. The map image display device as recited in claim 9, wherein
said telephoto distance setting section is further configured to calculate the telephoto distance setting value on a daily basis for each day of a week and to set the telephoto distance in accordance with the telephoto distance setting value calculated that corresponds to a current day of the week in which the map image display device is used.

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11. The map image display device as recited in claim 9, wherein
25 said telephoto distance setting section is further configured to calculate the telephoto distance setting value on a seasonal basis for each season of a year and to set the telephoto distance in accordance with the telephoto distance setting value calculated that corresponds to a current season of the year in which the map image display device is used.

12. The map image display device as recited in claim 9, wherein
said telephoto distance setting section is further configured to reduce the telephoto
distance as a movement distance of the mobile body from a movement start position
increases.

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13. The map image display device as recited in claim 4, wherein
the map image display device is configured to be installed in a mobile body; and
the display name selecting section is further configured to select a distant map
location as the distant map name to be displayed that is included in the telephoto region
10 position in a direction of movement of the mobile body.

14. The map image display device as recited in claim 4, wherein
the display name selecting section is further configured to select as the distant map
name to be displayed that is type of location specified by a user's input command.

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15. The map image display device as recited in claim 1, wherein
the control unit is further configured to include

a map image setting section configured to determine the current displayed map
image to be displayed;

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a destination etc. setting section configured to set at least one of an en route
location and a destination;

a display name selecting section configured to select at least one intra-map
name to be displayed corresponding to a location that is located in the
current displayed map image, and to select the distant map name as the at
least one of the en route location and the destination to be displayed and
25 that is located at a point that is not included in the current displayed map
image; and

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a display image creating section configured to create a display image including
the current displayed map image with the intra-map name and the at least
one of the en route location and the destination that were selected by the
display name selecting section such that the intra-map name is to be
30 displayed at a location superimposed on the current displayed map image

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that corresponds to the intra-map name and the at least one of the en route location and the destination is to be superimposed at a position on the current displayed map image that corresponds to a relative direction of the distant location relative to the center point of the current displayed map image.

16. The map image display device as recited in claim 15, wherein the control unit is further configured to display the distant map name on the display unit in a peripheral part of the display unit.

17. The map image display device as recited in claim 15, wherein said telephoto distance setting section is further configured to set the telephoto distance in accordance with a scale of the current displayed map image to be displayed determined by the map image setting section.

18. The map image display device as recited in claim 15, wherein the map image display device is configured to be installed in a mobile body; and the telephoto distance setting section is further configured to vary the telephoto distance according to a moving speed of the mobile body.

19. A map image display device comprising:
input means for inputting user commands;
display means for displaying map images; and
control means for control the display means to display a current displayed map image with at least one user selectable distant map name corresponding to a distant location that is not located in the current displayed map image, and for switch from the current displayed map image to a new displayed map image in response to a user input command such that the new displayed map image represents an area including the distant location corresponding to the distant map name selected by the user input command.

20. A map image display program embodied on a computer-readable medium having computer-executable components comprising:

a displaying program with instructions for displaying on a display unit a current displayed map image with at least one user selectable distant map name corresponding to a distant location that is not located in the current displayed map image, and

- 5 a switching program with instructions for switching from the current displayed map image to a new displayed map image in response to an input command such that the new displayed map image represents an area including the distant location corresponding to the distant map name selected by the input command.

21. A method for displaying map images comprising:

- 10 displaying on a display unit a current displayed map image with at least one user selectable distant map name corresponding to a distant location that is not located in the current displayed map image, and

- switching from the current displayed map image to a new displayed map image in response to an input command such that the new displayed map image represents an area
15 including the distant location corresponding to the distant map name selected by the input command.